

# GUNDER HAGG TO WED PIEDMONT GIRL

LIB D SEP 30 1943  
Gunder Hagg, the fleet Swede who set two new American records on his Summer's tour in the United States, is just as fast where romance is concerned.

Revealed today was his engagement to Miss Dorothy Nortier, 19, of Piedmont, whom he met during his week in San Francisco.

Miss Nortier and her brother, Arthur, 13, were asked to present a program of accordion music for the visiting athlete at one of the social functions for him in San Francisco.

That was the way they met and the acquaintance was speeded by Dorothy's fluency in the Swedish language.

She went to New York to see Hagg the two weeks before he left for Sweden on September 4 and they became engaged there. Announcement was withheld until he reached his home in Sweden so that the news of the romance would not reach his parents before he did.

The official announcement came from Dorothy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nortier of 1880 Trestle Glen Avenue, Piedmont.

# Hagg, Fiancee

## Shun Reporters

**TRIB D MAR 15 1945**

Pose for Photographs  
**But Keep Silent  
On Wedding Plans**

CHICAGO, March 15.—(P)—Gunder Hagg, the Swedish runner and his fiancee, Miss Dorothy Nortier, 21, Swedish-speaking blonde of Oakland, Calif., let it be known, decidedly, today that their romance and wedding plans, if any, are strictly a private affair.

After a hilarious chase by romance-seeking reporters, Hagg and Miss Nortier finally posed together for photographers with reporters excluded, but would answer no questions about love and marriage.

Hagg in a press conference permitted his friend and traveling companion, Haaken Lidman, the Swedish hurdler also here to compete in the Chicago relays Saturday, to talk to reporters.

### **IT'S AN OLD STORY**

"They have been engaged for two years; it's an old story," Lidman said. "There are no definite plans for their marriage." Lidman added that he could not say whether they would be married in Hagg's current visit to the United States.

Miss Nortier, Hagg and Lidman are stopping at the same hotel, she having been here since Monday night.

Upon arrival by plane Hagg told reporters his romance was "my private affair," and confused the journalists no end by stating he didn't expect to see Miss Nortier in Chicago. Not long thereafter, how-

# Marriage Plans

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ever, he did see her at the hotel, even before the rest of the party had finished registering.

When one girl reporter went to Miss Nortier's room, knocked and Hagg opened the door, he recognized her, exclaimed "No, no, no," and slammed it shut. Eventually, however, came the press conference, the pictures and the assertions that neither Hagg nor Miss Nortier is "talking."

Her mother, Mrs. Esther Nortier, said in Oakland that "Mr. Hagg does not believe in public discussion of his plans," and that "he believes his private life is something separate from his public life, and I think he is wise." Previously Mrs. Nortier had said the couple expected to be married in Oakland. They have been engaged since Hagg's first visit to this country in 1943.

# HAGG NOW SEEKS BACKING FOR U.S. TOUR IN SUMMER

*TRIP OF MR. HAGG*  
STOCKHOLM, March 23.—(U.P.)—  
If American sports promoters are interested, Sweden's wonder miler Gunder Hagg, is ready to come to the United States this Summer and try to run a four-minute dream mile."

He made the suggestion today in an interview in which he said he would like to tackle his long-standing rival, Schoolmaster Arne Andersson, in a final series of races in Sweden, America and perhaps Russia.

Hagg, who with Andersson and 23 other Swedish athletes were disqualified as amateurs, made it plain that he would want a good financial consideration for making the trip.

"After all, my other interest in the United States, my romance with Dorothy Nortier of Piedmont, Calif., isn't very pressing right now, because I haven't received any letters from her recently," he said.

(Miss Nortier is visiting in Los Angeles and was unavailable for comment.)

"After thinking it over for nearly a week," said Hagg, "I have decided I would like to try my luck at setting some new records in the United States and Russia."

Hagg said he hoped to get permission to go to Russia as soon as possible and to visit the United States this Summer.

"If we can't make the trip this Summer, I'd like to come over next Summer," he said.

# Haag's Fiancee Silent

P-E MAR 26 1946

## No Comment on Romance

Dorothy Nortier of Oakland, whose romance with Swedish Track Champion Gundar Haag has been conducted mostly by air mail for the past two and a half years, refused to confirm or deny today that they were still engaged.

In Sweden, Haag, who recently was disqualified as an amateur, said his courtship of Miss Nortier "isn't very pressing right now."

Mike Nortier, Oakland restaurant operator and father of the 22-year-old, blonde girl, said his daughter and Haag had not been corresponding "much" lately.

### NO STATEMENT

Miss Nortier, who once said she didn't "know anything definite about the future except that we will be married," announced she has "no statement whatsoever to make."

Their romance began in July, 1943, when Dorothy and her younger brother played an accordion duet at a reception for Haag at the Swedish Consulate in San Francisco.

Her mother, a native of Voldalen, Sweden, called it "love at first sight."

Haag spoke little English, but Dorothy spoke Swedish fluently. Mrs. Nortier said:

"The most important words were 'Jag Alskar Dig'. That means, 'I Love You'."

Their engagement was announced in September, 1943.

Miss Nortier joined Haag in Chicago last year when he competed in a series of meets in the United States. At the time, she said they would be married "within a month." They later decided to wait until Haag completed his tour, but eventually he sailed for Sweden alone.

### ROMANCE NOT PRESSING

Haag said in Stockholm that he would like to race in the United States this year provided "a good financial consideration" were involved. He said:

"After all, my other interest in the United States, my romance with Dorothy Nortier of Piedmont, isn't very pressing right now because I haven't received any letters from her recently."

Miss Nortier's parents said they had "no idea" whether the track star would visit their daughter if he came to this country.

# Miss Nortier to Wed Another

TRIB D MAY 25 1947

Miss Dorothy Nortier, 23, Oakland girl whose romance and on-again-off-again engagement to Swedish Track Champion Gunder Haag made international news for several years, yesterday announced she would marry Ted Charles Atwood, Placerville insurance broker, here June 22.

Miss Nortier added Haag and she ended their marriage plans by "mutual agreement" last year.

She did not comment on Haag's two and a half year record of denying or refusing to comment on their engagement or on his flitting from the West Coast to the East Coast to Sweden each of the several times wedding plans were announced.

Miss Nortier added, however, that "I certainly don't feel badly about it now."

The once-blond and still beautiful Miss Nortier, who explains that the only reason she converted from brown hair to blond in the first place "was because Gunder liked it," said she and her fiance would be wed at 2 p.m. June 22 in a formal ceremony at Piedmont Community Church.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Nortier, Oakland restaurant owners, of 1880 Trestle Glen Road.

Atwood is a co-owner of the Smith and Atwood firm of insurance brokers of Oakland and Placerville. Miss Nortier said they would live in Placerville after their marriage.

A lilting melody can spark almost anyone to sing along, including Korean War orphans adopted by an American family.

This is demonstrated when the vibrant voices of "The Atwood Family," seven strong, (two of them from Korea) sing along to the piano or accordion accompaniment of their widowed mother, Mrs. Ted C. Atwood.

It was only natural for willowy, blond, Dorothy Atwood to introduce Mike, 17, Michele (known as "Mimi"), 16, Stephanie, 14, Noel and Kim, 12, Marty, 10, and Melanie, 5, to music.

**MRS. ATWOOD** was a Piedmont girl, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Mike Nortier. She went as a bride to Placerville where her late husband was an insurance broker. Early this year she brought her family back to Piedmont.

Before her marriage she was a teacher of piano and accordion at the Oakland City School of Music, and played in a combo in Berkeley.

"Composing and music had become a part of my life," Mrs. Atwood explained. "And when I had a family it was only natural to introduce the children to music for fun and as a form of family togetherness."

**THE CHILDREN** responded so enthusiastically that the Atwoods decided to enter a talent contest at the 1958 El Dorado County Fair in Placerville.

"We were a full house of five at

that time," noted Mrs. Atwood, with Kim still in Korea and Melanie not yet born.

But the five young Atwoods (Mike, the eldest, was only nine) and their gracious, twinkling eyed mother captured the hearts of the audience and walked off with top honors at the fair. Their prize was a \$50 check and an appearance on a Sacramento television station.

**AN INSTANT** hit after their TV debut, the Atwoods became monthly regulars on a Sacramento television show.

The late Mr. Atwood, who never joined in his family's singing, served as critic. His wife recalls fondly, "He was our best audience and kept us so happy we couldn't help but sing."

Mr. and Mrs. Atwood refused offers to put the family on tour with a manager, convinced that singing should be primarily a form of family unity.

**BUT PERSONAL** appearances at civic events close to the Placerville home became a way of life to the family.

Mrs. Atwood still is adverse to putting the children on tour professionally, although the family continues to enjoy singing in public near home. They would, Mrs. Atwood admits, consider recording singing commercials should any offers come their way.

The family has appeared on the Tennessee Ernie Ford television

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# The Atwood Family

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show, United Crusade telethons, the Sonora March of Dimes Show and at lodge and other group gatherings.

**THE POISED**, wide-eyed, youngsters do not confine their musical talents to singing. With bodies in rhythmic motion, their agile fingers glide across instruments as they sing.

Mike takes to the bongo drums while Kim, Stephanie and Noel strum guitars. Mimi is adept at the piano and Marty favors the maracas.

Melanie, who just turned five, joined her vocal brothers and sisters last year. She's already mastered solos. Personal appearances are nothing new to this young charmer who made her television debut at eight months in her mother's arms.

One of the problems confronting a family of growing singers, Mrs. Atwood notes, is the loss of a soloist during the change of voice period.

**WE ALL SAY** a silent prayer when Kim has a solo," Mrs. Atwood confides. "We went through this with Mike, too."

Mrs. Atwood composes many of the songs her family sings in their varied repertoire. In addition to popular music, they sing German, Swedish and Hebrew folk songs.

Since the Atwoods moved to Piedmont, they have been called upon to sing by local organizations.

Mr. Atwood died in November of 1963. Since then, Mrs.

Atwood concedes, "It's sometimes pretty overwhelming making decisions on my own."

In the early 1940s, Mrs. Atwood's name appeared frequently in newspapers because Swedish track champion Gundar Haag was making numerous trans-Atlantic trips with hard-to-get visas to court the then Dorothy Nor-tier.

She doesn't share the prevailing concern over today's teenagers.

"I think my teenagers and their friends are simply marvelous," Mrs. Atwood said.

**SHE FINDS** her teenagers fine companions, and she believes many of the problem teenagers are those whose failed to get parental understanding during pre-teen years.

In addition to singing, Mrs. Atwood channels the youngsters' energies into at home work projects. They formed their own work crew to clean up the yard at their Piedmont home, which had been

vacant for several months. Household chores and work are delegated to youngsters.

A stroke of ill fate prompted the Atwoods to adopt Mrs. Atwood's two nieces, then two and one-half, joining the family. In 1960 they adopted 6-year-old Kim.

**THE MAJOR** problem the new Korean addition, Mrs. Atwood recalls, was "My children smothered me with love."

And it was only natural the first words the naive, tongue-tied youngsters uttered in halting English were, "I love you."

Melanie, whom Mrs. Atwood describes as "our little us," will enter kindergarten this fall. And Mrs. Atwood admits it's a bit frightening. "It will be the first time I had no children at home in 13 years."

# Woman at Home

APR 28 1966

She was a luminously beautiful young blonde music teacher who sometimes sang with a combo of five lads playing for school dances. Then one night she and her brother, both fluent in Swedish after an earlier year's residence with their mother's relatives in Europe, sang at the Swedish consulate in San Francisco when famous sprinter Gunder Hagg was being entertained there.

Almost immediately her engagement to the track star made international headlines; stayed there, making some of the rarely cheerful reading in the generally grim news of WW II days, through several years of on-again off-again romance; was finally amicably ended as wartime travel restrictions kept her here and Gunder in his native Sweden. Then splendidly handsome young Commander Ted Atwood returned from the wars and, outrunning all others, took Dorothy Nortier off to Placerville as his bride.

Still blonde and beautiful, with an added radiance of full and joyous living, she has returned to a great old house under the stately trees of Wildwood Avenue with her family. There are Michael Theodore, 18; Michele Lee (Mimi), 16; Stephanie Kay, 15; Noel Lynn, 13; Kimball Scott, 13; Martin Edward, 11; Melanie Ann, 5; no Ted — a brain tumor deprived the family of its father three years ago.

"The Placerville years were heavenly," says Dorothy. "With Ted running his family's second-generation insurance business we knew everybody for miles around, were mixed up in all the school, church and civic affairs. It was wonderful to walk down the street and know as a friend everyone you met. But of course it was never the same after we lost Ted, and there are more outlets here for the childrens' varied interests."

Five of the children were born to the Atwoods; Kim and Marty they adopted from Korea, Kim at the age of two in 1957, Marty in 1959 when he was six. The way they all sing together, you'd think it was just to get two more good voices for the Atwood family chorale. For Dorothy, to whom music comes as naturally as breathing, sang their nursery rhymes instead of reading — and young Atwoods began harmonizing before they could read.

Ted was their best critic and fan, as mother and children entertained at Placerville events and on television in Sacramento. He helped plan their costumes for public appearances — sleeveless vee neck sweaters over the boys' white shirts and the girls' white blouses, worn with white pleated skirts and trim dark slacks — for they dislike

dressing children as miniature adults, abhor glitter and tinsel, have an affinity for wholesome naturalness.

This is Dorothy's philosophy of fashion, and what she continues to teach her brood. "It is always the person who wears the clothes, must never be the other way round," she says — and seven young clotheshorses agree. They all take keen interest in attire, grooming and hairstyles; each expressed definite opinions as to styling details and colors when outfitted at Joseph Magnin for today's photo-

tographs. Marty considers himself a "slightly more formal" type than Kim — who knew exactly how to loop the lacing of his modish velours sweater, laughing at the suggestion it be tied in a bowknot. The girls know their figure faults and advantages, have learned how to camouflage some points, dramatize others.

They follow Dorothy's advice that dress of easy fitting lines is best to "suggest a figure, not blurt it out" and that for boy or girl "excellent carriage can hide a multitude of faults." Like her, they are

instantly aware of fabric texture and color; enjoy the play of pattern against pattern, exercise dashing discrimination in mixing bright accessory touches against simple basic clothes.

The Atwoods' interest in fashion is tossed as casually into family conversation as their talk of school, music, travel, food, prayer, parties, and everything else eight active people love. They all gather round when Dorothy dresses for a gala, freely offer opinions about everything, are fussy and proud about her appearance. These kids ably

reverse their mother's published dictum (she writes occasionally for national publications) that, "No mother is so talented or intelligent or educated that she cannot express her abilities in the molding of her child; nor is there one so superior she may scorn her responsibility to do so."

She is Fashion's nomination for the Mother's Day girl of any year. When she tells her young, "Happiness is here, not there," you look at them in the house on Wildwood and know you've found the right address.

# Piedmont Mother 'Natural' As Single Parent of Year

MAY 5 - 1968

"A woman can do anything except be a man."

"If women are indeed as intelligent as men, they will be happy to remain women," says Mrs. Dorothy Atwood, a Piedmont widow who is simultaneously beautiful, mother of seven, and newly named Single Parent of the Year by the international organization of Parents Without Partners.

The quotation appears in a sometimes humorous, often philosophical, book-in-the-making, "Our Unwed Mother and Other Problems."

Authors are Mrs. Atwood and the seven young Atwoods — a family group frequently

surpassing those old juvenile fiction favorites, "The Five Little Peppers," in imagination and endeavor.

To begin with, each has a paying part-time job in addition to school, except the youngest, who objects to child labor, according to their mother. They are: *their*

Michael, 20, employed as a copy boy in The Tribune's editorial department; Mimi, 18, who works at an Oakland name plate company; Stephanie, 17, a stockroom girl at a fashion shop; Noel, 15, whose babysitting earnings started her bank account; Kimball, 15, a guitar teacher;

Martin, 13, who has a Tribune paper route, and Melanie, 7, who does dishes and sets the table.

A brain tumor deprived the family of its father, Ted Atwood, in 1963. The Atwoods then lived in Placerville, where Ted operated a family insurance business.

Two of the youngsters, Kimball and Martin, were adopted from Korea and today Dorothy is working with the Pearl Buck Foundation to adopt still another child.

"Melanie is so much younger than the rest, a brother or sister her own age would be the best present we could give her," says the ebullient Mrs. Atwood.

As Dorothy Nortier, she grew up in Piedmont, and in her widowhood she brought her family back to make a home at 411 Wildwood Ave., because "there are more outlets here for the children's varied interests."

Neither her own or her husband's parents are living and she was "desperately lonely."

And that's where Parents Without Partners came in. She said:

"I had heard of the organization, and telephoned to find out about it. In a few days I attended one of the group's lectures held regularly at Berkeley First Presbyterian Church.

"It turned out to be about Planned Parenthood, limiting families, and I could have sunk through the floor.

"But from that one meeting I made new friends, and soon I was being invited to parties and out on dates.

"Men want woman friends who can be friends, women they can talk to.

"I'm not looking for marriage. I have quite a job to do right now. Maybe that's why I have so many genuine men friends."

The Parent of the Year award will be officially presented June 28 in Atlantic City, where all the Atwoods are expected to be present — if the organization can raise necessary funds.